

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-11 AID-05 TRSE-00 /093 W

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R 281137Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 512

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSULATE ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

MEMBASSY MANAMA 229

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF SADAT VISITS TO GULF STATES

REF CAIRO 2646

1. LOCAL PRESS FEBRUARY 28 CONTAINS GENERALLY UP-BEAT
COVERAGE OF PRES SADAT'S JOURNEY THROUGH GULF STATES,
ALTHOUGH SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS OR MORE GENERAL SPECULATION
ABOUT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT.

ARTICLES ON SADAT VISITS TO MUSCAT, ABU DHABI, BAHRAIN,
AND QATAR STRESS COMMENT BY PRES THAT TRIP TO GULF HAS
DUAL PURPOSE: TO EXPLAIN CURRENT ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

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IMPASSE AND TO SOLICIT ASSISTANCE FOR WAR-RAVAGED

EGYPTIAN ECONOMY. ONLY UAE'S SHAYKH ZAYID IS QUOTED IN MOST GENERAL TERMS, AS CALLING FOR SUPPLYING EGYPT WITH "DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL AID TO MEET HER URGENT NEEDS", BUT NO SPECIFIC PLEDGE IS MENTIONED.

2. AKHBAR AL-YAWM, IN FACT, DIVERTS ITS ATTENTION, IN ITS LEAD HEADLINE, FROM SADAT PROGRESS THROUGH GULF TO FACT THAT PRES TO ANNOUNCE "IMPORTANT DECISIONS" TO NATION CONCERNING RAMIFICATIONS OF TRIP AND INTERNAL QUESTIONS AFTER HIS RETURN TO CAIRO. AHRAH STATES THAT SADAT TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF HAD FOLLOWING ECONOMIC AIMS: A) IMMEDIATE CASH AID TO HELP ALLEVIATE CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS; B) SECURING LARGE LOANS AT SIMPLE INTEREST FROM ARAB DONORS TO SUPPORT 5-YEAR EGYPTIAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AND C) ARAB PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN EGYPT WHICH FALL UNDER 5-YEAR PLAN. AHRAH REPORT ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF TRIP CONCLUDES THAT SADAT OBTAINED AGREEMENT ON OUTLINES OF THESE THREE GOALS DURING TRIP, BUT THAT DETAILED TALKS TO BE HELD LATER "AT HIGH LEVEL" TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION.

3. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN PRESS CLEARLY STRESSING EGYPTIAN ARAB LEADERSHIP ROLE, AND DOWN-PLAYING ECONOMIC CONCERNS, DURING SADAT GULF JOURNEY, IN WAKE OF DISAPPOINTINGLY LOW (IN UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATION OF GOE) SAUDI COMMITMENT OF \$300 MILLION ON FEBRUARY 26. EGYPTIAN DISTRESS AT LOW SAUDI AID FIGURE (DESPITE OFFICIAL CLAIMS THAT \$300 MILLION LEVEL QUITE SATISFACTORY) PROBABLY REFLECTED IN FAILURE OF EGYPTIAN PRESS FEBRUARY 28 TO EVEN MENTION SAUDI PORTION OF SADAT'S TRIP AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SADAT'S DISCUSSIONS IN GULF. GIVEN ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC FINANCIAL PLEDGES FROM GULF RULERS TO EASE CURRENT EGYPTIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS, GOE FEARS THAT SAUDI AID FIGURE WOULD BE REGARDED AS GUIDELINE BY GULF STATES APPEAR TO HAVE COME TRUE.

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